

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 MC-01 DPW-01 DRC-01 /061 W

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R 180810Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1201

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

USSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7884

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PINS, MOPS, SREF, LA

SUBJ: TALK WITH DEFMIN SISOUK

1. DATT AND AMBASSADOR MET WITH DEFMIN SISOUK OCTOBER 18.
AND REVIEWED A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS WITH HIM.

2. FORCE REDUCTIONS. SISOUK GAVE GENERAL TREFRY THE
LATEST FIGURES ON FAR FORCE LEVELS AND DREW ATTENTION
TO THE FACT THAT OVER 700 SOLDIERS WILL HAVE BEEN DE-
MOBILIZED DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

3. ARMS SMUGGLING. SISOUK WAS INFORMED THAT THERE HAVE
NOW BEEN THREE TRUCKS CARRYING US WEAPONS APPREHENDED IN
THAILAND BY THE THAI POLICE. AS HE KNEW, THE FAR STAFF
HAD BEEN GIVEN THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF THE WEAPONS SEIZED
IN THE FIRST TRUCK AND SOME OF THE WEAPONS HAD BEEN
TRACED TO PHOU KAO KOUAI. THE SERIAL NUMBERS ON THE
SECOND SEIZURE HAVE JUST BEEN RECEIVED AND ARE BEING
REVIEWED. THE SERIAL NUMBERS FROM THE THIRD SEIZURE
HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM BANGKOK. THE AMBASSADOR
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AND GENERAL TREFRY EMPHASIZED THE GRAVITY OF THIS MATTER

AND SISOUK AGREED THAT DRASTIC STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN AT ONCE BY FAR TO BRING THIS KIND OF THING TO AN END. HE SUMMONED THE FAR CHIEF OF STAFF AND REVIEWED WITH HIM THE INVESTIGATION WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE FAR INSPECTOR GENERAL.

4. POW/MIAS. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED TO SISOUK HIS CONCERN THAT THE MIA QUESTION MIGHT NOT BE ADDRESSED FOR SOME TIME IF THE JCIA NOW TAKES UP THE QUESTION OF REFUGEES. HE NOTED THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR BOTH THE MIA QUESTION AND THE REFUGEE PROBLEM TO BE DISCUSSED SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE CONSIDERABLE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF THAI POWS AND THE NUMBER ACTUALLY RETURNED IN RECENT PRISONER EXCHANGES. HE TOLD SISOUK THAT WE WERE CHECKING WITH BANGKOK TO SEE WHETHER THE RTG WAS SATISFIED THAT THEIR PRISONERS HAD ALL BEEN RETURNED.

5. REFUGEES. THE AMBASSADOR URGED SISOUK TO SEE TO IT THAT CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS WERE GIVEN JCIA REP SOUKAN VILAYSARN WITH REGARD TO RETURN TO VILLAGE OF REFUGEES. SISOUK AGREED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT SOUKAN BE GIVEN CLEAR GUIDANCE AND SAID THAT THE QUESTION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING WHERE MINISTER OF INTERIOR PHENG PHONGSAVAN HAD INSISTED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RETURN TO VILLAGE RESTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

6. SUPPORT TO FAR. GENERAL TREFRY REQUESTED THAT FAR REVIEW ITS SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING RATIONS FOR SOLDIERS. SISOUK'S ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE VERY HIGH COST OF MEAT AND OF RICE AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS QUESTION WOULD BE PURSUED AT A MEETING OF THE MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS NEXT WEEK.

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Message Attributes

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